

## BOOK REVIEW

GRAHAM CHARLES. 2003. **Cacti and Succulents**. (ISBN: 978-1-1861268726, pbk.). The Crowood Press Inc., The Stable Block, Crowood Lane, Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2HR, England. (**Orders:** www.crowoodpress.co.uk, by phone 01-672-520320). \$35.00, 192 pp., 8 3/8" × 10 3/4".

The author's aim in writing this book is to give any potential reader an insight into what the hobby of growing cacti and succulents is really like today. He explains what makes the hobby so much fun and how satisfying it can be. He has found through experience that growing cacti and succulents provides one with a perfect opportunity to relax— after all, nothing happens quickly in a succulent collection.

The author describes the special features of the plants and what you need to know to get the best out of them. His book is an essential guide to cacti and other succulents, featuring 420 color photos and a wealth of information on the plants and their cultivation. Beautifully illustrated and highly accessible, this guide is both an instructive practical manual and a rich source of reference. More than 250 different species or genera and their natural habitats are profiled and illustrated. Topics include: the unique nature of succulents; their natural environment; history, classification, and nomenclature; watering, feeding, general care, and propagation; pests and diseases; and profiles of cacti and other succulents. It is very much a hands-on book for the potential and experienced grower. Many techniques are illustrated step-by-step.

Lavishly illustrated, this is an indispensable guide for growers and enthusiasts. Recommended for public libraries and research collections, it will be of use to the general public, students, and experts alike.

Graham Charles is a National Cactus and Succulent Society judge and lecturer. He has been a grower since the age of twelve and brings a wealth of knowledge and information to the topic.—Gary L. Jennings, Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.